DEWAN : They are dutiable articles.

MEMBER : The traders in these oils have gone on strike.

DEWAN : The people must then start co-operative societies for the purpose.

MEMBER : In regard to the hardship caused by *poramboke* cases, I repeat my suggestions, and pray that, if Government approve them, they may be forwarded to the Tahsildar, for many cases are pending with him.

DEWAN : The representation will be referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner as soon as possible.

MEMBER : In regard to the acquisition of the Perumalkulam tank, the injunction order has been withdrawn at the instance of the party concerned. The lands are now available for house construction.

DEWAN : The matter will be looked into.

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33. Needs of Vaikam.

MR. R. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam*) urged the following needs of Vaikam :—

(i) Improvement of Perinchilavu *todu* from the junction of Kaniyan *todu* to Puttan *todu.*

(ii) Making the Kaniyan *todu* navigable.

(iii) Improvement of the canal connecting the Kaniyan *todu* and Puttan *todu.*

(iv) Improvement of Antakara *todu* as far as the Vembanad lake.

(v) Improvement of the *todu* from Mariyankulam to Perinchilavu.

(vi) Restoration and improvement of Kadi *todu.*

(vii) All the roads maintained by the P. W. D. and Maramat Departments to be widened, metalled and provided with side-drains.

(viii) Improvement of certain lanes.

(ix) Repair or construction of the wooden bridge on the Tekke *todu.*

(x) Extension of the jetty at the western landing.

(xi) The provision of a travellers' bungalow.

As regards the wooden bridge, he said that it was in a precarious condition and people had to take a circuitous route to go to the other side of the Tekke *todu* for fear of accident. It would be better if the wooden bridge could be removed and a ferry opened immediately until the construction of a new bridge is completed.

He also said that the Vaikam Devaswom should be asked to pay to the Municipality an annual contribution of not less than Rs. 150 for the work the Municipality had to render to the temple in connection with the removal of refuse matter.

His next suggestion was to remove the barricades now put up on the roads. He said that the Municipality had to issue licenses to cart owners who complained that, owing to the existence of the barricades in question, there was no free passage. One of those barricades had been removed and only a police outpost had been established in that place. The same might be done as regards the other places also.

DEWAN : Do you want the barricades to be removed ? If you bring this matter to my notice separately, I shall look into it.

MEMBER : The municipal roads should be free from obstruction for carts to pass freely. Now, the *satyagraha* volunteers are standing on the road which is narrow.

DEWAN : The Chief Engineer says that the Kaniyan *todu* work is in progress.

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MEMBER : The work is progressing only very slowly.

DEWAN : The estimate has been sanctioned. Provision has been made in the current year's budget for half the work and half the work is bound to be completed this year.

MEMBER : It is not efficiently done.

DEWAN : You must wait until the work is completed and see whether it serves the purpose. If you find any defect, you may bring it to the notice of Government and they will ask the department to remove that defect.

Then you referred to three or four *todus* which have to be investigated.

MEMBER : It is enough if these *todus* are demarcated by the respective authorities; if the ryots are asked to improve them, they will do it of their own accord for the sake of the mud.

DEWAN : It has been reported to me that the encroachments on these *todus* have been removed.

MEMBER : The encroachments have not been removed. The trees are not leased out properly.

DEWAN : The land on which the tree stands is probably part of the holding. The other day you were hearing in this Assembly complaints made that the Government were confiscating lands which were private holdings by classing them as encroachments.

MEMBER : But, in this place, the valuable trees are cocoanut trees. If the ryots are allowed to remove these trees, most of them will willingly do it and leave the property to Government.

DEWAN : Supposing you own a piece of land which has been surveyed as part of one of the *todus* and you also find it necessary that the land should be retained as *poramboke* and that the *todu* should be widened, do you think you will readily say it is not *patta* land ? You may be generous enough to say that it is part of your holding and that you are prepared to give it up for the purpose of widening the channel for public use. We have got to deal with various ryots. These lands must have been either correctly or incorrectly classed as *porambokes* ; and if there are contentions that they are part of private holdings, they have got to be enquired into first.

MEMBER : Such instances are rare.

DEWAN : In regard to your complaint about the narrowness of the *todu*, I have to refer you to the general complaint that the Government have no business to interfere in such matters. The work of the Government is extremely difficult under these circumstances when conflicting interests are asserting themselves for recognition. You were saying that certain streets and lanes should be widened at the cost of the Government and then handed over to the Municipality along with the annual maintenance allotment of Rs. 300. That is a very large order. There is a large number of such roads and lanes not vested in the Municipal Council. We are prepared to vest in the Municipal Council such of them as could be so transferred. But, if the Government are to widen them at their own cost and also to give funds for their annual maintenance by Councils, the Councils need as well not exist.

Then in regard to encroachments, the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner will be asked to instruct the officers under him to remove the encroachments as speedily as possible.

Then you referred to a certain wooden bridge on the Tekke *todu*. The Chief Engineer says that, although it is not very necessary, it is being constructed as a cart bridge. Now it is only a foot-bridge.

Then you want the Vaikam Devaswom to contribute towards the expenditure on sanitation. That is a fight between the Devaswom Department and the Municipal Council of Vaikam which it is not possible to decide in the Assembly. That will have to be decided elsewhere.

I think a T. B. at Vaikam is highly necessary. The present camp shed is certainly in a very bad condition.

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MEMBER : There was a dispute as to whether the P. W. D. officer should be given priority over the Revenue officer in the matter of occupying the camp shed.

DEWAN : Since the camp shed belongs to the P. W. D., the officers of that department have got the priority.

MEMBER : Very often a private gentleman has to be inconvenienced for want of accommodation.

DEWAN : It is really the case at Vaikam ; and the matter will receive early consideration at the hands of Government.

As regards the construction of a jetty at the western landing, an estimate for Rs. 5,000 has been received. The Boat Company want to put up a big jetty of their own, and the Government do not think there is any very great necessity for their constructing another. Further, it is a costly business as it will cost about half a lakh of rupees.

DEWAN : As I have to go to Varkala, we will now adjourn for the day.

The Assembly adjourned at 1·42 P. M. to meet again at 11·30 A. M. the next day.

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